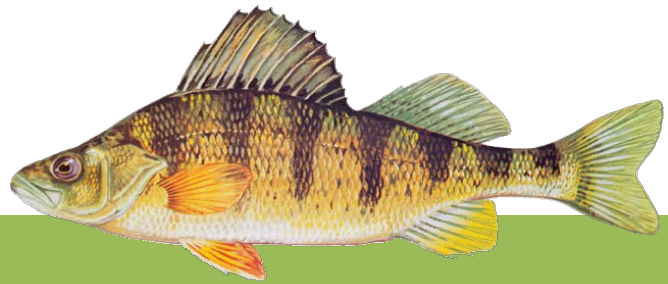


CT DEEP **2015**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 22
9/10/2015



Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*)



YOU CAN FIND US DIRECTLY ON FACEBOOK. This page features a variety of information on fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching in Connecticut. The address is www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife.

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE
Take someone fishing

INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as very good. Places to try include: Bantam Lake, Candlewood Lake, Highland Lake, Black Pond (Middlefield), Lake Saltonstall, Pequonnock River, Mudge Pond, West Hill Pond, Quaddick Reservoir, Moodus Reservoir, Lake Lillinonah, Congamond Lakes, Bashan Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Hatch Pond, Winchester Lake, Halls Pond, Dog Pond, Bishop Pond, Stillwater Pond & Roseland Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Moodus Reservoir (slow, not many caught with a 1.25 lbunker), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (fair action, with a 6.13 lbunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS action reported at Upper Housatonic River (excellent during the hot weather; the hotter the better; poppers were the lure of choice), Naugatuck River, Quinebaug River, Bantam Lake, Colebrook Reservoir, Candlewood Lake, and Highland Lake.

NORTHERN PIKE catches have been reported from Bantam Lake, Upper Housatonic River & Winchester Lake.

PANFISH are providing good early September action. Use worms, grubs, jigs or small poppers for them. Areas to try include: Valley Falls Pond, Wood Creek Pond, Lake Wintergreen, Tollgate Pond, Tetreault Pond, Twin Brooks Park Pond, Mohawk Pond, Mudge Pond, Crescent Lake, Morey Pond and Hatch Pond.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - The September heat wave was broken this week with a front coming through on Thursday and continuing into Friday. Conditions for trout fishing will be variable this weekend with rain associated with that front headed our way. The much needed rain forecasted for most of the state should bring streams to more typical levels for this time of year. (see *stream flow graphic on page 4*). Trout fishing was reported to be very good last week from the West Branch Farmington River and Housatonic River.



SAVE THE DATE

Connecticut Hunting & Fishing Day

Saturday, September 26, 2015. 10 am-4 pm

Back by popular demand! On September 26, 2015 the DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources and the sporting community will be at [Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area](#) celebrating the many benefits of hunting and fishing (click on [Hunting & Fishing Day](#) for online information).

Fun activities for all ages are planned, along with educational programs, a live raptor program by Talons, workshops about hunting and fishing, and live music. Best of all, the event is free to attend!

Farmington River – Water temperatures are in the mid 60's°F with clear flows through the TMA, currently 120 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River providing another 11 cfs below Riverton. An 8' 6" 4 weight fly rod with a 9' leader and 6X tippet is recommended for this flow.

This week (Wednesday, 9/9, through Friday, 9/11), DEEP is conducting its **annual electrofishing survey** of the West Branch Farmington River (subject to change depending on precipitation and flow conditions). Flows may be temporarily reduced and anglers may expect fishing in the West Branch TMA to be slow during and for several days following sampling.

Last week DEEP stocked 2,000 trout. These fish are all brown trout (12 inch and bigger fish) with 1,000 fish stocked from the lower end of the year-round catch-and-release area (Route 219 bridge) to the lower Collinsville Dam, 700 fish from the lower Collinsville Dam to the Route 177 bridge (Unionville) and 300 fish along the "Larry Kolp Garden Plot" in Farmington (the stretch just upstream of the confluence with the Pequabuck River).

Hatches/patterns- Insect hatches are mostly stable and unchanging. Current hatches consist of *Isonychia bicolor* (major hatch, #10-14, fast water, evening), Tricos (#24), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp. & *Baetis* spp.; #18, 20-24, mid-late afternoon), Cahills/Summer (*Stenonema ithaca*, #12-14, evenings), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Midges (#22-32, morning), Black Ants (#14-20, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#14-18, mid day), Flying Ants (#16-30, mid day, when windy/humid, especially after rain) and Stone Hopper (#8-14, mid-day) are successful patterns.

Housatonic River – Water temperatures are in the low 70's°F with clear flows. Currently flows are low for this time of year but will increase as the rains come in on Thursday and Friday (currently 194 cfs at Falls Village and 242 cfs at Gaylordsville). A 9 foot 4-weight fly rod with a 9 foot leader and 7X tippet is recommended.

Hatches/patterns include flying ants (#14-16, mid-day, when windy/humid, September is peek month), Fall Sulfurs (#16-18), Blue Wing Olives (#18-22), Tricos (#20-22), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening, September is peek month), Sulfurs duns (#16-18, below the dam due to low temperatures, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners), Light Cahill and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Golden stonefly nymphs hatch at first light and adults egg-lay after dark. Try Black Ants (#14-20, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#14-18, mid day), Stone Hopper (#8-10, mid day). Don't forget streamers (morning & evening). Patterns to try include: White, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Woolly Buggers (olive/burned orange or tan #8-12), Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10).

ATTENTION FARMINGTON RIVER USERS.

Is that "didymo" that you may have seen on rocks in the river this summer?



Not exactly –But close. It's *Cymbella janischii* (another diatom).

Cymbella janischii is currently blooming in the West Branch Farmington River in the town of Barkhamsted. *Cymbella janischii* is related to Didymo and forms thick mats (2-4 inches thick) that can cover the substrate. *Cymbella janischii* closely resembles Didymo in that it produces long thin stalks and is commonly lumped as a "rock snot". To the naked eye, these stalks look light grey, fluffy, and some may form longer "tail-like" strands.

Anglers and all users of the river are urged to follow check, clean, dry methods to reduce the transport of *Cymbella janischii* (and all potential non-native species) from the West Branch Farmington to other waters around the state.

Cymbella janischii is endemic to the Pacific Northwest, where it can also form thick mats, and prior to its discovery in the West Branch Farmington River in 2012, had not been reported east of the Rocky Mountains.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Some lakes are still producing good fishing. Good reports are from Crystal Lake (target 22-25'), Highland Lake, East Twin Lake, Colebrook Reservoir (40-42', orange/gold & blue/silver Mooselooks), Mashapaug Lake (6 colors), Beach Pond (streamers @ 20-22') & West Hill Pond (30-35' down).

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows and turbidity will increase for the weekend. **CATFISH** action was slow this week with several smaller fish being caught on chunk bait and live sunfish. **NORTHERN PIKE** catches have been reported from the coves of the lower river. Coves are producing good late summer **LARGEMOUTH BASS** angling. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** fishing remains good the upper river area.

NOTES & NOTICES:

BASHAN LAKE (drawdown). Bashan Lake remains drawn down (slow refill has begun – lake currently remains down approximately 8 feet) following dam repairs and the state boat launch is closed.

GLASGO POND (drawdown). A drawdown of Glasgo Pond to facilitate dam repairs was scheduled to begin following Labor Day. Launching of boats will become difficult.

HIGHLAND LAKE. A canoe/kayak race and swim event is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, at Highland Lake from 9 am to 11 am. This event will be held in the north bay at Resha and Holland beaches in the vicinity of the state boat launch. Boaters should use extra care when accessing the lake from the state launch.

LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

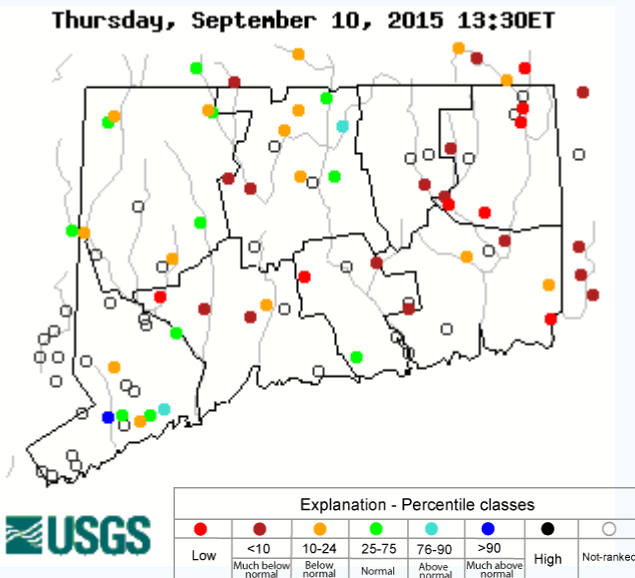
Bathymetric maps of many of Connecticut's public access lakes and ponds can be found online at:

www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

Both plain line maps and maps overlaying an aerial photo available.



Stream flow conditions as of 9/10/2015



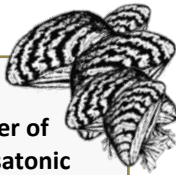
Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>. A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example streamflow greater than the 75th percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered “above normal”. Stream flow between the 25th and 50th are considered to be “normal flows” and those 25th or less are considered to be “below normal”.

ZEBRA MUSSELS REMINDER

Zebra mussels are now found in a number of locations scattered throughout the Housatonic River and its impoundments including Lake Lillinonah (since 2010), Lake Zoar (since 2010) and Lake Housatonic (since 2011).

Prior to their discovery in Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar in 2010, zebra mussels had been found (1998) in CT only in East Twin Lake and West Twin Lake (Salisbury). Anglers fishing in any of these waters and western Connecticut in general **should use extra care to avoid transporting water, aquatic vegetation, and possibly zebra mussels to new locations.** Information

For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of zebra mussels to additional waters, visit www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2015 CT angler's Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).



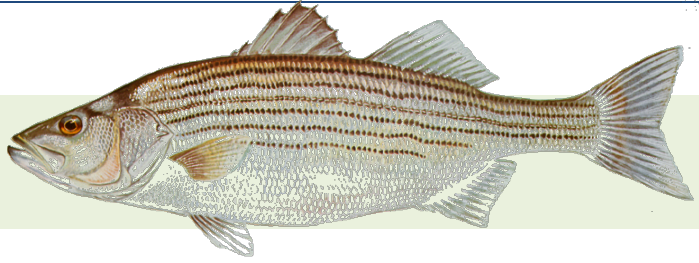
REMINDER TO ANGLERS-

FISHING IN OR CASTING INTO PERMITTED SWIM AREAS IS PROHIBITED.

State regulations prohibit fishing in or into a swim area that's been permitted by DEEP. Additionally, vessels cannot be operated within a permitted swim area, and there's a 100 foot “no-wake” zone around the perimeter. Swim areas that have been permitted by DEEP will be marked by white buoys with orange markings, and there should be a permit number posted on the buoys. They may or may not have small orange barrier floats to further demarcate the area. Should questions arise concerning the validity of the swim area (no permit numbers or the area appears to have been changed/enlarged or keeps moving), please contact DEEP's Boating Division at 860-434-8638.



MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) remain in the mid to upper 70's °F. Check out the following web sites for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions:

<http://www.mysound.uconn.edu/stationstat.html>

http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

STRIPED BASS fishing should improve with the approaching NEW moon (Sept 13th) bringing some very large "cow" bass close to shore. Try shore fishing at your local coastal state park or public shore fishing access area. Boat fishing spots include the Watch Hill reefs, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, lower Mystic and Thames River, the Race, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, the "humps" south of Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Six Mile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor and the upper reaches, West Haven (shore fishing), Charles Island area, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef. ***Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait (prevent gut hooking) and practice catch and release when possible.***

BLUEFISH fishing continues to be good. Fishing is consistent in the Race and Plum Gut. Also, large bluefish continue chasing bunker up into harbors and tidal rivers including the Thames River, Connecticut River, upper reaches of New Haven Harbor (West River, Mill River and Quinnipiac River) and the Housatonic River. Large "Choppers" up to 16 lbs have been reported. Other bluefish boat fishing spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, Sluiceway, Pigeon Rip, Long Sand Shoal, Six Mile Reef, Falkner Island area, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middleground, Penfield Reef, and Cable and Anchor Reef. Shore spots include Meigs Point Hammonasset, Ocean Beach State Park (New London), Seaside Park (Bridgeport) and CT Audubon Center (Milford). **Harbor blue fishing has really improved throughout the Sound. Find the birds diving for food and you will find these sub-adult bluefish (14-20 inches) feeding on snappers in the lower rivers and estuaries, providing some fast paced fun fishing for anglers (shore and boat).**



Attention:

OUTDOOR GROUPS/CLUBS/BUSINESSES.

The upcoming **Hunting and Fishing Day**, September 26, 2015 is from 10 am to 4 pm at Sessions Woods Wildlife Management area and DEEP would like to invite you to attend.

There is no charge for the event and you can showcase your group/business/organization with a tabletop display.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Laurie Fortin at laurie.fortin@ct.gov.

For more information on the event go to: www.ct.gov/deep/huntfishday.

SNAPPER BLUES fishing is very good at many shore locations. Interestingly, they are much larger in the western sound (6-10 inches) when comparing them to the central and eastern sound snappers (4-6 inches). Look for the schools of “peanut” bunker/bait and you will find the snappers.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is good in deeper water of 90+ feet as they begin their migration towards Montauk and points further south. Live lining snapper blues in the deep water is an effective way to score on late summer doormats. Traditional fluke spots include the south shore of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), Napatree Point and along the beach, off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River over to Groton Long Point, Two Tree Island Channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay including the Bloody Grounds, Sound View Beach, Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor, off the mouth of the Housatonic River, and south of the Norwalk Islands.

SHORE FISHING SPOTS & TIDE TABLE INFORMATION

To find a saltwater shore fishing spot close to where you live, go to the following website:

<http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/>.

For **Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing** sites and other fishing information including a site map go to the following website

<http://www.depdata.ct.gov/maps/saltwaterfish/map.htm>.

Please see page 60 of the [2015 CT Angler's Guide](#) for CT tide information.

BLACK SEA BASS and SCUP (porgy) fishing remains good to excellent on any of the major reefs in LIS. Fishing in deeper water (80+ feet) over gnarly bottom is your best bet for bigger black sea bass. Shore fishing spots for scup Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities. These “Panfish of the Sea” are easily caught on sandworms/cut squid/conch or any other small piece of bait. Contact your local [bait and tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information (see page 14 of the 2015 CT Angler's Guide).

ATLANTIC BONITO and LITTLE TUNNY fishing is sporadic... here today and gone tomorrow is the news. Small tuna have been reported cruising from Watch Hill to Pine Island (including Fishers Island Sound), the Race to Little Gull Island, and from Bartlett Reef to Black Point. Early morning dawn patrol is the best time to fish for these speedsters!

HICKORY SHAD fishing continues to be slow. Try the Black Hall River, Lieutenant River, lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier, Baldwin Bridge State Boat Launch, Clinton Harbor, lower Housatonic River and Fort Trumbull. Tie on a silver willowleaf lure or a small chartreuse jig (add a 14-20 inch leader) with a slip sinker above the swivel along with light tackle (6lb test main line). Cast to current breaks/channels and retrieve the lure slowly, hold on for the hard strike and the shad jumping out of the water.

BLUE CRAB fishing remains slow for keepers. There are some large “jimmies” (male crabs) being captured (8 inches spike to spike, Westbrook area). **Remember...all egg-bearing females must be released without avoidable injury. Minimum carapace length is 5 inches for a hard shell crab.** Legal gear types include: scoop (dip) net, hand line, star crab trap, circular (topless) trap not exceeding 26 inches in diameter. Maryland Style Crab traps are prohibited. Chicken with the skin on it (along with a long handle net) is the preferred method to capture these tasty crabs.

BRACKISH WATER & SEA TURTLE INFORMATION

- Link to [IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON SEA TURTLES](#)
- [NORTHERN DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN TURTLE](#) – Many shore anglers fishing in the lower Connecticut and Housatonic Rivers and other estuaries are encountering these beautiful brackish water turtles while fishing. They will frequently feed on fishermen's live or dead bait when bottom fishing. They are a protected species with very low abundance. Please take great care (use needle nose pliers) when removing the hook and release the turtle with unavoidable harm. Terrapins have a long lifespan of about 25 to 40 years.

SHARK SPECIES YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN COASTAL WATERS OF CONNECTICUT: Although you might catch Sand Tiger and Sandbar (Brown) Sharks, they are both protected prohibited species and must be released unharmed. **IF YOU DON'T KNOW, PLEASE LET IT GO!** [Coastal shark information](#).

GOT A FISHING REPORT - PLEASE EMAIL US AT deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or deep.accommodations@ct.gov if you have a disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



**Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
www.ct.gov/deep

Striped Bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.